

SAVIOUR AND YOU HAVE NOT FOUND HIM YET. SO COME BACK; I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU, AND, IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME, I WILL PRAY FOR YOU."
 "MADAM, I ANSWERED, "I AM A JEW."
 SHE REPLIED: "I DO NOT CARE IF YOU ARE A JEW; JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR JEW AS WELL AS GENTILE."

THE PERSUASIVE MANNER IN WHICH SHE SAID THESE WORDS WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS EFFECT. I FOLLOWED HER BACK TO THE VERY SPOT WHENCE I HAD JUST LEFT SO ABRUPTLY, AND WHEN WE CAME UP TO THE FRONT SHE SAID: "IF YOU WILL KNEEL I WILL PRAY FOR YOU."
 "MADAM, THAT IS SOMETHING I HAVE NEVER DONE, AND NEVER WILL DO," FOR ORTHODOX JEWS NEVER KNEEL IN PRAYER EXCEPT TWICE A YEAR-ON THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS AND DAY OF ATONEMENT, AND THEN IT IS NOT KNEELING AS CHRISTIANS DO; IT IS A PROSTRATION ON THE GROUND.

THE LADY LOOKED ME CALMLY IN THE FACE AND SAID: "DEAR STRANGER, I HAVE FOUND SUCH A DEAR LOVING, ~~GOOD~~ AND FORGIVING SAVIOUR IN THE LORD JESUS THAT I FIRMLY BELIEVE IN MY HEART HE CAN CONVERT A JEW STANDING ON HIS FEET AND I WILL GO ON MY KNEES AND PRAY FOR THAT." SHE SUITED THE ACTION TO THE WORD, AND FELL TO HER KNEES, AND BEGAN TO PRAY, TALKING TO HER SAVIOUR, IN A SIMPLE, CHILDLIKE MANNER THAT COMPLETELY UNNERVED ME. I HEARTILY WISHED THE FLOOR WOULD OPEN, AND THAT I MIGHT SINK OUT OF SIGHT. WHEN SHE AROSE FROM HER KNEES, SHE EXTENDED HER HAND AND WITH A MOTHERLY SYMPATHY SAID: "WILL YOU PRAY TO JESUS BEFORE YOU SLEEP TONIGHT?"
 "MADAM, I REPLIED, "I WILL PRAY TO MY GOD, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND ISAAC, AND JACOB, BUT NOT TO JESUS."
 "BLESS YOU!" SHE SAID, "YOUR GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND ISAAC, AND JACOB, IS MY CHRIST, AND YOUR MESSIAH."
 ON MY WAY HOME, REFLECTING ON MY RECENT STRANGE EXPERIENCES, I BEGAN TO REASON WITH MYSELF: "WHY IS IT THAT THESE CHRISTIANS TAKE SUCH AN INTEREST IN STRANGERS? WHY SHOULD THAT DYING DRUMMER-BOY THINK ONLY OF WHAT HE WAS PLEASED TO CALL MY UNSAVED SOUL? AND WHY, ALSO, SHOULD THAT CHRISTIAN BARBER OF NEW YORK MANIFEST SUCH A DEEP INTEREST IN ME? WHY SHOULD THIS PREACHER TONIGHT SINGLE ME OUT AND POINT HIS FINGER AT ME, OR THAT DEAR WOMAN FOLLOW ME TO THE DOOR AND HOLD ME BACK? IT MUST BE ALL FOR THE LOVE THEY BEAR TO THEIR JESUS, WHOM I DESPISE SO MUCH."

THE MORE I THOUGHT OF THIS THE WORSE I FELT. ON THE OTHER HAND, I ARGUED: "IS IT POSSIBLE THAT MY FATHER AND MOTHER, WHO LOVED ME DEARLY, SHOULD TEACH ME ANYTHING THAT IS WRONG? IN MY CHILDHOOD THEY TAUGHT ME TO HATE JESUS; THAT THERE WAS BUT ONE GOD, AND THAT HE HAD NO SON." I NOW FELT A DESIRE SPRINGING UP IN MY HEART TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THAT JESUS WHOM THE CHRISTIANS SO MUCH LOVED AND WORSHIPPED. I STARTED TO WALK FASTER, FULLY DETERMINED THAT IF THERE WAS A REALITY IN THE RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST I WOULD KNOW SOMETHING OF IT BEFORE I SLEPT.

WHEN I ARRIVED AT HOME, MY WIFE (WHO WAS A ~~VERY~~ STRICT ORTHODOX JEWESS) THOUGHT I LOOKED RATHER EXCITED, AND ASKED WHERE I HAD BEEN. THE TRUTH I DARED NOT TELL HER, AND A FALSEHOOD I WOULD NOT, AND SO I SAID: "WIFE, PLEASE DO NOT ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS. I HAVE SOME VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. I WISH TO GO TO MY PRIVATE STUDY, WHERE I CAN BE ALONE."

I AT ONCE WENT TO MY STUDY, LOCKED THE DOOR, AND BEGAN TO PRAY, STANDING WITH MY FACE TOWARDS THE EAST, AS I HAD ALWAYS DONE. THE MORE I PRAYED THE WORSE I FELT. I COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR THE FEELING THAT HAD COME OVER ME. I WAS IN GREAT PERPLEXITY AS TO THE MEANING OF MANY PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WHICH DEEPLY INTERESTED ME. MY PRAYER GAVE ME NO SATISFACTION, AND THEN IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT CHRISTIANS KNEEL WHEN THEY PRAY. WAS THERE ANYTHING IN THAT? HAVING BEEN BROUGHT UP AS A STRICT ORTHODOX JEW, AND TAUGHT NEVER TO KNEEL IN PRAYER, A FEAR CAME OVER ME THAT IF I SHOULD KNEEL I MIGHT BE DECEIVED IN THIS BOWING MY KNEE TO THAT JESUS WHOM I HAD BEEN TAUGHT IN MY CHILDHOOD TO BELIEVE TO BE AN IMPOSTER.

ALTHOUGH THE NIGHT WAS BITTERLY COLD, AND THERE WAS NO FIRE IN MY STUDY (IT WAS NOT THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD USE THE ROOM THAT NIGHT) YET I NEVER PERSPIRED SO MUCH IN MY LIFE AS I DID THAT NIGHT. MY PHYSICALITIES WERE HANGING IN MY STUDY ON THE WALL, AND I CAUGHT SIGHT OF THEM. NEVER SINCE I WAS THIRTEEN YEARS OF AGE HAD I MISSED A DAY IN WEARING THEM, EXCEPT ON JEWISH SABBATHS AND FEASTS. I LOVED THEM DEARLY. I TOOK THEM IN MY HAND, AND WHILE LOOKING AT THEM GENESIS 49:10 CAME FLASHING ACROSS MY MIND: "THE SCEPTRE SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR A LAWGIVER FROM BETWEEN HIS FEET, UNTIL SHILOH COME, AND UNTO HIM SHALL THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE BE."
 TWO OTHER PASSAGES ALSO WHICH I HAD OFTEN READ AND PONDERED OVER WERE PRESENTED